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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

The Holy Scriptures tell us:

"The Lord is my stronghold, my fortress and my champion. My God, my rock where I find safety . . ."

And yet, Lord, even our celebrated stronghold, the home of the brave, our heroic military and their families, Fort Hood, can be penetrated with violence.

Be with those fallen, the wounded and their families, as the Nation mourns with them and prays with them and for them.

Renew the fortress of faith and be their champion over all the forces of evil, those recognized as outside us and the insidious hidden in our midst.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PERLMUTTER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches from each side of the aisle.

ECONOMIC INEQUITIES

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, why is it we have finite resources for health care but unlimited money for war? The inequities in our economy are piling up: trillions for war, trillions for Wall Street, tens of billions for insurance companies. Banks and other corporations are sitting on piles of cash and taxpayers' money, while firing workers, cutting pay, and denying small businesses money to survive.

People are losing their homes, their jobs, their health, their retirement security. Yet there is unlimited money for war and Wall Street and insurance companies but very little money for jobs. There is unlimited money to blow up things in Iraq and Afghanistan, relatively little money to build things in the U.S.

The administration will soon bring to Congress a request for an additional \$50 billion for war. I can tell you, a Democratic version of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is no more acceptable than a Republican version of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Trillions for war, for Wall Street, billions for insurance companies. When we were promised change, we weren't thinking it meant we give a dollar and get back 2 cents.

FORT HOOD, TEXAS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the bugle sounds Taps. The flags of

Texas and the U.S. are at half staff this crisp morning.

In the hill country of central Texas, at the largest military base, a place called Fort Hood, soldiers and families mourn. They mourn for 13 of their own who have been murdered. They weep for 30 others who fill hospitals because of bullet wounds.

The soldiers were going about the business of making ready to deploy and defend this country overseas against tyranny and terrorism, only to face a terrorist here at home. A radicalized soldier named Nidal Hasan rejected his order to go abroad and took out his anger on those he knew.

We come upon Veterans Day next week where we honor our veterans, but let us here today in Congress on this solemn occasion give thought, prayer, and thanks to the men and women of the military who have volunteered to defend the rest of us against those forces of evil. We mourn with their families. These of our military are a rare breed, a unique breed, the American breed.

And that's just the way it is.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. KAGEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning to speak out in favor of reforming our health care system to guarantee that every citizen has access to the care that they need when and where they need it, at a price they can afford to pay. People like Jenny, who is a single mother of two asthmatic children who I got the fortune of taking care of. With two asthmatic children, she couldn't afford the price of the prescription drugs they needed to keep her children healthy.

People like Mary with rheumatoid arthritis so severe that she is an expensive date to the insurance companies

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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